

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 23, 42-47, and 56-61 remain pending in this application. Claims 19-22, 24-41, and 48-55, have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-18, 23, 42-47, and 56-61, are pending in the present application.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct an informality therein, and is not made for purposes of patentability. The amendment is not presented to overcome any rejection or to distinguish the claim over the prior art. Therefore, claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance and claims 2-18, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for at least the reasons cited above.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-13, 14-18, and 45, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In light of the amendments provided herein, Applicants respectfully assert that this rejection is now moot, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 45 is not vague since it is clear that it is the “processing model” that may be a physics model, a process, or an equipment model. The processing model is referred to in independent claim 42, from which claim 45 depends. The models called for by claims 42 and 45 are well referenced and there are no references to first and second models in these claims. Therefore, claim 45 is not vague and is allowable. Claims 9-13, 14-18, and 45, are allowable for at least the reasons cited above.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate that the Examiner allowed claims 23, 42-44, 46, 47, and 56-61. In light of the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-18, 45, and 56-61, are allowable. In light of the arguments presented above, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

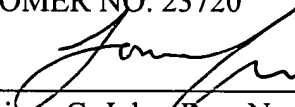
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, **the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney** at the Houston, Texas telephone number (713) 934-4069 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 7, 2004

WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON, P.C.
CUSTOMER NO. 23720

By: _____


Jaison C. John, Reg. No. 50,737
10333 Richmond, Suite 1100
Houston, Texas 77042
(713) 934-7000
(713) 934-7011 (facsimile)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)